

# REPORT

ON THE

## Sanitary & Housing Conditions

OF THE

### Kirkham Urban District,

FOR THE YEAR 1919.




CHARLES COURT, M.B.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

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KIRKHAM :

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham  
Urban District Council.*

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present for your consideration my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Urban District of Kirkham for the year ended 31st December, 1919.

The statistics with regard to the number of births and deaths have again been supplied by the Registrar-General through the County Public Health Department.

The numbers of births and deaths referred to in this Report are those registered during the calendar year, and are corrected for inward and outward transfers.

AREA.—The area of the Kirkham Urban District, according to the census return, is 857 statute acres.

POPULATION.—The populations supplied by the Registrar-General for the purposes of this Report are as under :—

For calculating the birth-rate	...	3,836
„ „ death-rate	...	3,682

Last year these figures were respectively 3,673 and 3,278.

The “ death-rate population ” excludes all non-civilian males, whether serving at home or abroad. This is necessary for the purposes of local death-rates, because it has proved impossible to transfer the deaths of non-civilians to their areas of residence, or to deal in any other satisfactory manner with the local mortality of this element in the population. These estimates are based mainly upon the rationing returns, kindly placed at the Registrar-General’s disposal by the Ministry of Food.

The “ birth-rate (and marriage-rate) population,” on the other hand, is intended to include all the elements of the population contributing to the birth and marriage rates. It consists, therefore, of the death-rate, or civilian population, *plus* all non-civilians enlisted from this country, whether serving at home or abroad. This non-civilian element has been distributed over all the districts in the country in proportion to their estimated civilian population.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

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**BIRTHS AND BIRTH-RATE.**—The total number of births reported by the Registrar-General as belonging to the Urban District of Kirkham was 51—males 24, females 27. In 1918 the registered births numbered 68—males 34, females 34. Illegitimate births in 1919 numbered 4.

The birth-rate, calculated on the population above referred to (3,836), corresponded to 13·2 per 1,000, the lowest rate ever recorded for the district. Last year the birth-rate was 18·5, and 19·7 for the mean of the 10 years 1909-1918. The rate for 1919 was, therefore, 5·3 per 1,000 below the rate for last year, and 6·5 per 1,000 below the 10 years’ average.

The provisional birth-rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1919 was 18·5 per 1,000 of the estimated population,

DEATHS AND DEATH-RATES.—The deaths registered in the Urban District during the calendar year totalled 47, one of which was that of a non-resident. To these must be added 12 deaths, which occurred outside the district of persons belonging thereto, making the nett deaths actually belonging to Kirkham 58 (males 30, females 28), or 1 more than in the preceding twelve months.

The tabulated statement below, supplied by the Registrar-General, analyses the causes of death, distinguishing males and females :—

CAUSES OF DEATH	Males	Females
All Causes (Civilians only) .....	30	28
Enteric Fever.....	..	..
Small-pox .....	..	..
Measles .....	..	..
Scarlet Fever.....	..	..
Whooping Cough .....	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup .....	1	1
Influenza .....	2	..
Erysipelas .....	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	..	3
Tuberculous Meningitis.....	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases .....	1	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease.....	3	4
Rheumatic Fever .....	..	..
Meningitis .....	..	1
Organic Heart Disease .....	1	2
Bronchitis .....	2	2
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	3	2
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	..	..
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years).....	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis .....	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver.....	..	..
Alcoholism .....	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ....	1	1
Puerperal Fever .....	..	..
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever .....	..	..
Congenital Debility, etc. ....	2	..
Violence, apart from Suicide .....	1	..
Suicide .....	..	..
Other Defined Diseases .....	12	10
Causes ill-defined or unknown.....	1	..
Special Causes (included above) :—		
Cerebro-spinal Fever.....	..	..
Poliomyelitis .....	..	..
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	6	2
Illegitimate.....	2	..
Total Births .....	24	27
Legitimate .....	23	24
Illegitimate .....	1	3

Population for Birth-rate .. .. 3,836.  
,, Death-rate .. .. 3,682.



The death-rate, calculated on the estimated civilian population previously referred to, viz., 3,682, was equal to 15·7 per 1,000, against a rate of 17·3 last year, and an average of 17·4 for the 10 years 1909-18. The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1919 was 13·8 per 1,000.

DEATHS FROM THE PRINCIPAL EPIDEMIC DISEASES.—Under this head only 2 deaths were recorded, viz., Diphtheria, 1 male and 1 female, corresponding to a rate of 0·54 per 1,000 of the population. Last year this rate equalled 1·22, and the 10 years average was 1·70.

PHTHISIS (Pulmonary Tuberculosis).—Three deaths were registered as due to Phthisis, all female. These represent a rate of 0·81 per 1,000 of the population, against 1·22 last year, and an average for the 10 years of 1·42.

BRONCHITIS, PNEUMONIA AND INFLUENZA.—Bronchitis gave rise to 4 deaths, Pneumonia (all forms) 5 deaths, and Influenza 2 deaths.

CANCER.—Seven deaths were ascribed to this cause.

INFANT MORTALITY.—The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 8, or double the number recorded in the preceding twelve months. The rate, calculated per 1,000 births, was 156, against a rate of 58 last year, 133 in 1917, and 155 in 1916. The average rate for the 10 years 1909-18 was 159.

The tabulated statement below compares the birth-rate and death-rates for 1919 with those of the preceding year and the mean of the 10 years 1909-18 :—

Per 1,000 of Population.												Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births
				Birth-rate			Death-rate			Epidemic Death-rate	Phthisis Death-rate	
1919	..	..	..	13·2	..	15·7	..	0·54	..	0·81	..	156
1918	..	..	..	18·5	..	17·3	..	1·22	..	1·22	..	58
Mean of 10 years..				19·7	..	17·4	..	1·70	..	1·42	..	159
(1909-18)												
<i>Increase or Decrease in 1919:—</i>												
Previous year				... - 5·3	...	- 1·6	...	- 0·68	...	- 0·41	...	+ 98
'Ten years' average				- 6·5	...	- 1·7	...	- 1·16	...	- 0·61	...	- 3

TABLE IV.—*INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1919.*

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year.

CAUSES OF DEATH				Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3 Months and under 6 Months	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All Causes	Certified	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	2	1	..	1	8
	Uncertified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Small-pox .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Chicken-pox .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Measles .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Scarlet Fever .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Whooping Cough .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Diphtheria and Croup .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Erysipelas .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Tuberculous Meningitis .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
{ Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> ) .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Convulsions .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
{ Laryngitis .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Bronchitis .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
{ Pneumonia (all forms) .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
{ Diarrhœa .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Enteritis .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Gastritis .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Syphilis .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Rickets .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Suffocation, overlying .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Injury at Birth .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Atelectasis .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Congenital Malformations .. ..				1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
{ Premature Birth .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus .. ..				..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	2
{ Other Causes .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS .....				1	..	1	..	2	2	1	2	1	8

Nett Births registered during the calendar year { legitimate .. 47 } 51  
 { illegitimate 4 }

Nett Deaths registered during the calendar year of { legitimate infants .. 6 } 8  
 { illegitimate infants 2 }

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT during 1919 and previous years.

YEAR	Population estimated to middle of each year	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
		Un-corrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District	of Residents not registered in the District	Under One Year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1914	3,950	91	91	23·0	50	..	1	10	7	76	59	14·9
1915	3,616	60	62	15·6	44	..	3	9	7	112	50	13·9
1916	Est. Civilian Population :— For Births 3,880 For Deaths 3,566	..	58	14·9	59	..	..	16	9	155	75	21·03
1917	For Births 3,719 For Deaths 3,336	..	60	19·1	53	..	..	14	8	133	67	20·0
1918	For Births 3,673 For Deaths 3,278	..	68 Males.. 34 Females 34	18·5	52	..	..	5	4	58	57 Males.. 23 Females 34	17·3
1919	For Births 3,836 For Deaths 3,682	..	51 Males.. 24 Females 27	13·2	47	..	1	12	8	156	58 Males .. 30 Females 28	15·7



## NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The population of the Kirkham Urban District was 3,793 inhabitants at the Census 1911, and the estimated population, as given by the Registrar-General for 1919 :— Birth-rate 3,836, and death-rate 3,682.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.—Kirkham is a small urban district, and forms part of the Fylde Union, and is situated half-way between Preston and Blackpool on the combined Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and North-Western Railways.

Its area comprises 857 statute acres. Kirkham itself is distinctive from other parts of the Fylde by being hilly in character, the other parts being, generally speaking, decidedly flat and low-lying. Three hills connect the east and the west ends of the town, thus presenting a somewhat switchback appearance.

The soil is mainly sand, clay and loam, and sub-soil sand and gravel in parts, thus lending itself to a good natural drainage.

Kirkham, the ancient metropolis of the Fylde, is partly built on middle sand and part on the upper boulder clay, the northern extension of these beds being cut off by a bluff, forming the southern limit of a large "swamp hollow," through which the Roman road and the railway were carried.

Between Church Street and Mill Street the bluff is very steep, and has been worn back into a cliff about 50 feet high, entirely composed of sand, the base of which is concealed by peat, so that the middle drift at this place attains a thickness of at least 60 feet. (It might be mentioned here that this portion of land, locally known as "The Close," is now used as a recreation ground, having been bequeathed to the town a few years ago by a former Chairman of the Fylde Union).

As regards the middle sands at the Willows (the west end) they have a continuous outcrop by Wrongway Brook, which used to be the boundary line between the townships of Kirkham and Wesham. These sands are again visible in the valleys or low-lying parts of the district.

THE SOCIAL CONDITIONS are chiefly industrial, a large proportion of the population being engaged in cotton mills, spinning and weaving. Others are engaged in trades in neighbouring towns, and also in agriculture in the rural districts.

There are four mills in the town, employing over 1,000 people. The latter, notwithstanding the improvements in the conditions of the mills and mill life generally, cannot be expected to enjoy the same robust state of health as that of out-door workers.

From personal observation I find that the majority of mill workers suffer from anæmic and dyspeptic ailments, due to the atmosphere in the mills and to a wrong dietary.

Judging from the Infantile Mortality, the social conditions also show their effects in the children in the early stages of life.

Of the 8 deaths recorded during the year, 3 of them were the result of Chest diseases, 1 of Tubercular Peritonitis, 2 were due to Inanition and Marasmus, 1 to deformity at birth, and the eighth was really the only one which could not be included in this category; the stamina of these infants being such that life was only maintained in some of these cases for only a few days. The Infantile Mortality, however, appears greater this year, although there was the same number of deaths as in 1917; but as the birth-rate in 1919 is the lowest on record, it naturally causes an apparently higher infantile death-rate.

WORKHOUSE ACCOMMODATION.—This is very good, and accommodation is provided not only for the Kirkham Urban

District, but also for the Fylde Rural District, Blackpool, Fleetwood, St. Annes, Lytham and Poulton. The total number of inmates on December 31st, 1919, was 215.

THE COTTAGE HOMES in Moor Street, for destitute children from the Fylde district, consist of modern semi-detached houses, each of which is supervised by a foster mother. The total number of children on December 31st, 1919, was 62—37 boys and 25 girls.

THE POOR LAW RELIEF for the Kirkham Urban District amounted to £231 11s. 0d. for the year 1919.

THE USE OF HOSPITALS FOR GRATUITOUS RELIEF are two Isolation Hospitals, viz., the Fylde Conjoint Isolation Hospital at Moss Side for Infectious Diseases, and the Preston, Fylde and Garstang Hospital at Elswick, for Smallpox. There is also a Sanatorium at Elswick for Tubercular patients.

The Preston Royal Infirmary is used for serious accidents and surgical operations. The Fylde Union Infirmary at Wesham also receives necessitous cases.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.—This is under the control of the Fylde Water Board.

The water is an upland surface water, of good quality, of a soft and peaty nature.

There are no sources of contamination, and no cases of lead poisoning have occurred.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—No rivers and streams pass through the district.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—In all the main and several of the side streets the main sewers consist of socketed tiles; in only two of the side streets do the sewers consist of egg-shaped tiles. These are 15in. in diameter,



The main sewer empties into a sewage farm at Freckleton, where there are settling tanks, and thence to the River Ribble.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—This consists of fresh water-closets, pail closets and privies. The number of each at the present time is as follows :—

Fresh water-closets	...	...	...	562
Tippler closets	...	...	...	28
Pail closets	...	...	...	17
Privies	...	...	...	205
Ashbins	...	...	...	341
Dry ashpits	...	...	...	49

Twenty-three privy closets have been converted to fresh water closets during the year.

SCAVENGING.—This is carried out by the Council with covered carts under the Inspector's supervision. A weekly removal of ashbins and pail closets is effected, and the privies and ashpits when required.

The disposal of house refuse is in tips. The scavenging has been carried out as fully as possible, considering the difficulty in obtaining labour during 1919.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.—Systematic inspections have been made by the Inspector, dealing principally with defective privies and paving of back yards. A complete detail of these particulars are given in the Inspector's Report.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.—In regard to this there are only two offensive trades in the district—one a rag and bone store, the other a tripe boiler. These are carried out in a satisfactory manner.



There is only one registered lodging-house in the town at the present time, which has accommodation for 75 persons. The lodging-house has been frequently inspected, both during the daytime and night, and found well kept.

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE.—During the year 1919, 23 privies have been converted into water-closets and some back yards improved.

Other sanitary requirements of the district are conversion of remaining privies into water closets, substitution of ashbins for ashpits, and the flagging of back yards.

SCHOOLS.—There are four schools, the sanitary condition and water supply of which are satisfactory. However, I might mention again that the playground of the Willows R.C. School requires asphaltting.

No schools have been closed on account of epidemic diseases during the year. As to the action taken to prevent the spread of disease, whenever any infectious disease has occurred the precautions are, first, exclusion of all infected families ; then, if this is not sufficient to eradicate the complaint, the school is closed for a limited period. The schools are always disinfected after closure for infectious diseases.

## FOOD.

(a) THE MILK SUPPLY is both good and adequate. There are nine cowkeepers, who are all registered, and the dairies and cowsheds are systematically inspected.

The County Analyst declared all samples of milk (10) taken to be genuine.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER, 1918.—Action with regard to this matter has been undertaken by the County Council, who have given assistance to certain necessitous cases through the Health Visitor.

(b) OTHER FOODS.—Careful inspections are made every week of all food exposed for sale in the various shops and the premises where food is stored. There are seven bakehouses. Notices were sent in three cases to limewash, and in one case to carry out structural alterations. Otherwise the condition of these bakehouses is satisfactory.

The condition of the slaughter-house is very good. During 1919 all the cattle and sheep have been killed in one slaughter-house, consequently the inspection of meat has been facilitated. At the present time there is no public abattoir.

During the year the entire carcasses of two cows were found to be tubercular, and also 220lbs. of frozen beef were condemned as unfit for food.

(c) SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.—The following samples were taken by the County Constabulary during the year ended December 31st, 1919 :—Milk 10, Coffee 1, Rice 1, Oatmeal 1, White Pepper 1, Custard Powder 1. All samples purchased were declared by the County Analyst to be genuine.

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

A register is kept of all Factories and Workshops in the district, which are visited periodically :—

Factories ... ..	4
Workshops ... ..	26
Bakers and Confectioners ... ..	7

The following is a list of Industries carried out in the Workshops :—

Boot Repairers...	6
Plumbers ... ..	3
Joiners ... ..	4
Blacksmiths ... ..	1
Cycle and Motor Repairers ... ..	4
Tinsmith ... ..	1
Dressmakers ... ..	4
Tailors ... ..	3

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

Under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act 10 cases were notified, viz. :—Scarlet Fever 2, Diphtheria and Membranous Croup 3, Malaria 1, Influenzal Pneumonia 2, Broncho-Pneumonia 1, and Acute Encephalitis 1 (doubtful).

In addition, under the Public Health Tuberculosis Regulations, 16 cases were notified :—12 Pulmonary and 4 non-Pulmonary. It might be stated that 4 of these cases were discharged soldiers.

Of the cases notified, excluding those of Tubercular disease, 4 were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Moss Side :—Diphtheria 2 and Scarlet Fever 2. The case of Acute Encephalitis was removed during the latter part of December, 1918.

Of the Tubercular cases, 7 patients received Sanatorium treatment :—2 at Elswick, 1 Bowdon, 1 Meathop, 1 Aitken, 1 Wilkinson and 1 at Eastby.

### SCARLET FEVER.

Cases 2. Deaths 0.

These cases were evidently sporadic, as no trace of the origin could be discovered. The first occurred in September and the other in December. Both cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

### DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

Cases 3. Deaths 2.

These cases occurred in February, April and May. No direct connection could be traced between these cases, as they occurred in different localities.

Two cases were removed to Hospital, one of which terminated fatally.

The case of Membranous Croup was "in extremis" when seen, and died at home before any treatment could be adopted.

### MALARIA.

Case 1. Deaths 0.

This case was that of a discharged soldier, who had contracted the disease abroad. The attack was of a mild character, and the patient soon recovered under treatment.

### ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS.

Case 1. Death 1.

This case was removed to Moss Side Hospital (December, 1918), and despite all care and attention terminated fatally in January, 1919. There was a doubt if this were not of tubercular origin.

### SMALLPOX.

There have been no cases of Smallpox during the year.

Number of Primary Vaccinations	...	...	22
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Number of Exemptions	...	...	...	19
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### PNEUMONIA AND INFLUENZA.

Three cases of Pneumonia were notified, two of which were Influenzal and one of another form. All cases terminated fatally.

As regards Influenza, the two cases mentioned above occurred in March and October, 1919; otherwise there was no epidemic during the year.

With regard to the control over Infectious Diseases, in all cases of Diphtheria, etc., bacteriological examination of swabs is made, and anti-toxin is used at once.

Inquiries in homes and schools to discover "contacts," exclusion of all suspects, and isolation of "return" and "carrier" cases (if any) are made.



On receipt of a notification of an infectious disease a visit is made by the Inspector, and all precautions taken to prevent its spread. The people are prevailed upon to make use of the Isolation Hospital.

Any cases treated at home are visited by the Inspector, the patient isolated, the children, if any, are kept from school. After recovery, or otherwise, a thorough disinfection of clothes and of premises takes place.

Where non-notifiable infectious diseases occur, and about which school intimations are received, exclusion from school and isolation as much as possible are made. In all cases the schoolrooms are disinfected.

The notification of Tuberculosis is fairly well carried out. Of course, there is occasional late notification, due in most cases to the relatives omitting to send for assistance in time.

Every week notifications of Tuberculosis are sent to the County Council. The Tuberculosis Officer immediately visits each patient with the Medical Attendant, and, where necessary, domiciliary or sanatorium treatment is given. On the occasion of death or removal to a sanatorium the dwellings are always disinfected.

As regards the notification of disease, when it is taken into consideration that it is the main pivot on which public health is worked, drawing attention to sanitation and housing generally, and that this notification is dependent entirely on the general practitioners, it shows a great amount of altruism on the part of the latter. For instance, they did not complain of the fee of 1/- for each notification during the war, nor at the present time at the half-crown fee, when money has so materially depreciated in value. By notification, infectious diseases are limited in number and severity. The source of infection is traced, the cause removed, and by preventing sickness and reducing the number of persons

requiring isolation in hospitals, a vast amount of money is saved to the country, which otherwise would have been lost by unemployment through sickness and the closure of schools.

The County Council have appointed a part time Health Visitor, who on receipt of notification of birth visits each case, and gives necessary advice. There is also a resident qualified midwife, who attends the majority of the labours, and who also does good work in maternity and child welfare.

There have been no cases of Puerperal Fever, Whooping Cough, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Measles and Epidemic Diarrhoea during the year.

If there should be any cases of Puerperal Fever they are removed in nearly all cases to the Isolation Hospital.

As to Ophthalmia Neonatorum, instructions have been given to the midwives to take precautions to prevent this disease occurring, and if it occurs to notify it at once, and action is taken thereon. These notifications are sent on immediately to the County Council.

### SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The staff consists of a Medical Officer and a Sanitary Inspector, who are both part time officials. The work of the Inspector includes that of Surveyor, District Rate Collector, and Building Inspector.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—There are no hospitals in the district, but advantage is taken of those in the neighbourhood, viz. :—The Fylde Conjoint Isolation Hospital at Moss Side, the Smallpox Hospital and Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Elswick, also the Fylde Union Infirmary at Wesham. As to the Isolation Hospital, 5 of the 10 cases of Infectious Diseases were treated there, the remaining 3 Pneumonia, 1 Malaria, and 1 Membranous Croup, being treated at home.

As to hospital administration, committees are formed, consisting of representatives from the various Councils of the conjoint area.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL ACTS OR GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS.—You have adopted the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act and the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.—There have been 10 examinations of swabs for the detection of the diphtheritic germ, 4 of which were negative.

There were also 2 examinations of sputum for the purpose of diagnosing Tuberculosis, both of which proved negative.

The chemical and bacteriological work is undertaken by Professor Delépine, of Manchester.

This concludes my Report, and I consider, on the whole, the year has been in some ways one of satisfactory progress, and trust, with the new housing scheme in hand, that any deficits may be overcome.

I am, yours obediently,

CHARLES COURT.



# KIRKHAM URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.



*To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham  
Urban District Council.*

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my Eighth Annual Report on the work done in the Sanitary Department during 1919. During the year 67 notices have been served with regard to the abatement of 83 nuisances and the remedying of insanitary conditions, chief of which were defective privies, drains and paving of back yards. Several water closets and drains have become blocked during the year ; these were remedied as soon as they were discovered. Frequent inspections have been made of the sanitary conveniences of the schools and factories in the town. I have tested many lengths of new and old drains by the smoke machine. Some defects were found and remedied ; the drains were afterwards re-tested and passed.

## SCAVENGING.

The scavenging of the town is carried out satisfactorily by our own men and carts, under my personal supervision. Privies in the town are becoming fewer in number, and this year 23 have been converted into water closets, and 21 new ashbins provided.

The following is the number of water closets, tippler closets, latrine closets, pail closets, privies and ashbins in the town at the present time :—

Water closets	...	...	...	...	523
Tippler closets	...	...	...	...	28
Latrine closets	...	...	...	...	39
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	17
Privies	...	...	...	...	205
Ashbins	...	...	...	...	341
Dry Ashpits	...	...	...	...	49



The pail closets and ashbins are emptied once a week, and the privies when required.

The number of privies, pail closets and ashbins emptied, and the loads of nightsoil, ashbin refuse and street sweepings carted during the year are as follows :—

Privies emptied and disinfected	...	...	...	1127
Privy pails	...	...	...	915
Ashbins emptied	...	...	...	16572
Loads of nightsoil carted to tip	...	...	...	1036
,, street-sweepings	...	...	...	242
,, ashbin refuse	..	...	...	489

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

The following is the list of cases of infectious diseases notified and the number of disinfections during the year :—

Number of cases notified of	Scarlet Fever	...	2
,,	Diphtheria	...	2
,,	Enteric	...	—
,,	Measles	...	—
,,	Erysipelas	...	—
,,	Puerperal Fever	...	—
,,	Tuberculosis	{ Pulmonary ...	12
		{ Other forms ...	4
Number of Schools disinfected	...	...	4
Total number of disinfections	...	...	31

All cases were visited upon receipt of notification. The two cases of Scarlet Fever, and two of Diphtheria were removed to Moss Side Hospital. After the removal of the patients the rooms were thoroughly disinfected with formalin. All the cases that were treated at home were visited from time to time, disinfectants left, and instructions given as to the proper isolation of the patients to prevent the spread of the disease. At the termination of a case treated at home all the rooms were well disinfected with formalin.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

There are 26 Workshops and 7 Bakehouses in the town. The workshops have been found to comply with regard to cleanliness, air space and light. The bakehouses have been kept under supervision. Notices were served on three occupiers of bakehouses where the limewashing of the walls and ceilings had not been done for over six months. These notices were complied with immediately. With these exceptions the bakehouses have been kept in a clean sanitary condition.

## COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

There is only one lodging-house, which is situated in Marsden Street. It is a large building, well arranged, and has sleeping accommodation for 42 men and 33 women, besides separate day-rooms for men and women on the ground floor. These premises have been regularly inspected, both during the day-time and the night, and no case of overcrowding or infectious diseases has occurred at these premises during the past eight years. In August the registration was transferred from James Thornton to Henry Slater.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are two offensive trades in the town—one a rag and bone store, and the other tripe-boiling. These premises are visited regularly, and they have not been the source of any trouble.

## SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are only three Registered Slaughter-houses in the district, and they have been regularly inspected. They are all provided with a good supply of water for cleansing purposes, and they have been kept clean and well lime-washed. Owing to the Government regulation with regard to the grading and rationing of meat all the cattle and sheep for this district have during the year been killed in one slaughter-house. All the refuse is removed immediately after slaughtering in galvanised bins with covers.

## FOOD.

Careful inspections of all food exposed for sale has been made, and the whole carcasses of two tubercular cows and 220lbs. of frozen beef were condemned as unfit for human food.

## BLACK SMOKE NUISANCE.

Fourteen observations have been made of the amount of black smoke which issued from the factory chimneys of the town. The period of emission of black smoke varied from 2 to 4 minutes during the observations.

## DAIRIES, COWSHEDS &amp; MILKSHOPS ORDERS.

There are 9 Registered Cowsheds and Dairies in the district. 116 inspections have been made of these places, which have been kept in a clean and sanitary condition. A plan for a new brick shippon for 8 cows has been submitted and approved.

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

Total number of visits and inspections ... ..	7459
Number of preliminary notices served by Inspector ... ..	78
Number of statutory notices served by order of Council ... ..	2
Number of nuisances remedied... ..	85
Number of houses disinfected ... ..	31
Number of schools disinfected ... ..	4
Filthy backyards cleansed under notice ... ..	22
Slopstone waste pipes repaired... ..	8
Drains opened out and defects rectified ... ..	21
New drains and gullies put in ... ..	9
Defective spouts and gutters repaired ... ..	10
Privies converted into water closets... ..	23
Number of new ashbins provided ... ..	21
Notice to remove manure from stables and cowsheds ... ..	4
Notice to clean and renovate public buildings..	2



Number of back yards flagged or cemented ...	4
Notice to remove hens from back yards ... ..	2
Pigs kept within 60 feet of a dwelling-house...	1
Notice to limewash workshops and bakehouses	4
Inspections of factories, workshops and bake- houses ... ..	162
Number of inspections of drains and sanitary conveniences to schools ... ..	46

### HOUSING, Etc., ACT.

The following plans have been submitted and approved by the Council during the year :—

Bungalow in Orders Lane.  
 New Bank Premises in Poulton Street.  
 New Brick Shippon, Freckleton Street.  
 Coal Storage Shed and Garages, Orders Lane.  
 Cart Shed in Best Street.  
 Wooden Shed for Gas Company.

The Council have submitted a scheme for 130 dwelling-houses to the Ministry of Health.

There have been no dwelling-houses erected during the year.

In concluding my Report I may say that a large number of property owners have expressed their willingness to make sanitary improvements to their property, but owing to the scarcity of labour and materials, particularly certain fittings connected with cisterns for water closets, it was found impossible to carry out the improvements, and had it not been for this difficulty more privies in the town would have been converted into water closets. A large amount of sanitary improvements have been made in the town during the past eight years, and as materials and labour become available more improvements will be carried out.

I am, yours obediently,

JAMES R. HOLMES,

*M.I.H., A.R.S.I., N.D.A.,*

*Sanitary and Building Inspector.*



# REPORT ON HOUSING.



- I. (1) The general housing condition of the Kirkham Urban District on the whole is good, with the exception of some houses in the older parts of the town.

Total number of houses ... .. 872

Number of houses for the working classes  
where the rent does not exceed £13... 681

Number of houses where the rent is more  
than £13 ... .. 191

It will thus be seen from the above figures that the majority of the houses in the town are those of the working-class type.

No new houses for the working classes have been erected during the year or in course of erection.

- (2) The population at the last Census, 1911, was 3,793 inhabitants, and the estimated population (birth-rate), as given by the Registrar-General for 1919, is 3,836 (and death-rate 3,682).

The Council have submitted scheme for 130 working-class houses. The site has already been chosen, but not yet sanctioned.

Mill extensions are anticipated in the future, and with industrial developments the number of houses will have to be increased.

3. (a) Extent of shortage, 130 houses :—

Number of houses required by families  
sharing homes ... .. 35

Houses overcrowded, people living outside the district, people wishing to marry, and persons under notice to quit ...	35
Industrial developments ... ..	50
Lack of building activity ... ..	10
	<hr/> 130

- (b) Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage.

A scheme has been submitted for the erection of 130 working-class houses.

## II. OVERCROWDING.

- (1) *Extent*.—Certain amount of overcrowding is due to lack of building activity during the war, and thus the shortage of houses.
- (2) The causes are industrial developments and lack of building activity.
- (3) Measures taken or contemplated to deal with overcrowding.

As soon as new houses are built and become available the difficulty will be overcome.

## III. FITNESS OF HOUSES.

1. (a) The general standard of housing in the district is, on the whole, good, with the exception of a limited number of old property. These latter houses are in a rather dilapidated condition, and are in such a state that they are not worth repairing, as the expense of repairs would be too great, and after all the outlay they would not justify their existence for more than a few years.

It is to be hoped that the erection of new houses will be proceeded with as soon as possible, thus enabling the tenants of the old property to ameliorate their conditions.

I might mention that other houses, where the defects are not so serious, could be made habitable for a number of years.

- (b) General character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses are as follows :—Defective walls and floors, and dampness in some cases. There are also still some cobble-paved back yards and privy middens.

2. Action taken as regards unfit houses under :—

- (a) The Public Health Acts.—Repairs have been made to some houses.

- (b) The Housing Acts ... .. Nil

3. Difficulties in remedying unfitness, special measures taken, and any suggestions in the matter.

The chief difficulties in remedying unfitness of houses are the scarcity of labour and material,

Owners of houses are willing to carry out repairs as soon as labour and material are available.

4. Conditions, so far as they affect housing as regards water supply, closet accommodation, and refuse disposal, together with measures taken during the year in these matters.

All houses are supplied with water from Fylde Water Board, which is very good.

Closet accommodation is adequate, and the disposal of refuse is by tips. At present there is no destructor.

#### IV. UNHEALTHY AREAS.

- (1) Action taken as regards areas represented before the beginning of the year under Part I. or Part II. of the Housing Act of 1890.

No action was taken during the year 1919, but since then two surveys have been made in co-operation with the County Council with a view to closing a certain number of houses where defects were irremediable, and also to repairs in others.

However, I might state there is no congested property in the district.

- (2) Particulars of, and action taken as regards, areas represented during the year... Nil
- (3) Information as to complaints made during the year that areas were unhealthy and action taken ... Nil

V. Bye-laws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, etc.

- (1) As to working of existing bye-laws.

No bye-laws are in existence. During the latter part of 1919 a van was occupied by one man owing to the scarcity of houses.

- (2) As to need for new bye-laws or revision of existing bye-laws.

New bye-laws are required.

VI. No action has yet been taken by the Local Authority in connection with overcrowding, insanitary property and housing beyond repairs being made to some houses, and submitting scheme for 130 working-class houses.

At the present time no closing orders can be made as regards the old property, where defects are irremediable, until other houses have been erected, owing to the shortage of dwellings.



VII. APPENDICES. STATISTICS FOR THE 12 MONTHS  
ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1919.

- |     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which complaints were made that they are unfit for human habitation by house holders ... ..                            | Nil |
| (2) | Action under Section 17 of the Housing Act of 1909.  |     |
| (a) | Number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purpose of the Section. ...  | 14  |
| (b) | Number of dwelling-houses which were considered to be unfit for human habitation. The County Council condemned 66 houses, a number of which could be improved. |     |
| (c) | Number of dwelling-houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders ... ..   | 8   |
| (3) | Action under Section 28 of the Housing Act, 1919.  |     |
| (a) | Number of orders for repairs issued ... ..   | 66  |
| (b) | Number of cases in which repairs were carried out by the Local Authority ...   | Nil |
| (c) | Number of dwelling-houses voluntarily closed on notice by owner that they could not be made fit without reconstruction ...                                     | Nil |
| (4) | CLOSING ORDERS.  |     |
|     | Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of closing orders ... ..   | Nil |
| (b) | Number of closing orders made ... ..   | Nil |
| (c) | Number of dwelling-houses in regard to which closing orders were determined on the houses being made fit for human habitation ... ..                           | Nil |
| (5) | DEMOLITION ORDERS.   |     |
| (a) | Number of demolition orders made ... ..  | Nil |

- (b) Number of houses demolished in pursuance  
of demolition orders ... .. Nil
- (6) Number of dwelling-houses demolished  
voluntarily ... .. Nil
- (7) Obstructive buildings under consideration.. Nil
- (8) The present staff engaged in housing work consists of the Clerk to the Urban Council, the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector, who are part time officials. Additional officials will be shortly appointed.

## CHARLES COURT.

